TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

MR JAMES ALEXANDER.

TO THE

TRUSTEES OF THE WIDOWS' FUND

OF THE

CHURCH AND UNIVERSITIES OF SCOTLAND.

Reverend Sirs and Gentlemen,

I venture respectfully to offer myself as a Candidate for the vacant situation of Collector of the important fund under your charge. Known personally to not a few of your number, while conducting mercantile business in Edinburgh for twenty years previous to 1855 (during a considerable portion of which period I was one of the Stent-Masters of the city), I then emigrated with my family to Canada, whence I have lately returned to native air, for the benefit of shattered health, supervening on sore domestic trials and bereavements. Now restored, in the good providence of God, in a large measure to former health and strength, I am averse again to encounter the trying alternations of climate, and would prefer, could I obtain speedy and honourable employment, to remain at home. Such an opening the eligible situation in your gift now presents; and though, owing to circumstances, I come late into the field, I still feel it my duty to present myself for your acceptance; and I venture to believe that, in addition to previous business acquirements, my avocations in Canada have greatly added to my fitness for the efficient performance of the duties devolving upon a Collector of such a fund as that now in question. There, it was my lot to institute an extensive Provincial Association, the duties in

management of which involved the frequent and periodical collection of moneys throughout the Province, and the regular compilation of masses of statistical information of an important character, for monthly publication, requiring the utmost caution and vigilance, and largely extending my knowledge of the world. Sincerely attached to the Church of Scotland, and adhering to her communion amid the secession of many near and dear to me, it was my privilege to give what feeble support I was able to the Canadian branch of our Church; and I had the happiness to aid in the inception and successful establishment of a Mission to the Jews, in which interesting field of labour the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, is now represented by the Rev. Dr Epsteen, M.D., settled at Salonica. Having been for the last few years a stranger in Edinburgh, I beg to append, and respectfully request your perusal of, a few Testimonials, the more valued of which were elicited spontaneously, and with no special object in view.

I may state that, through the kindness of my friend, William Thomas Thomson, Esq., I have had the advantage of studying the history and position of the Scheme from his concise Report thereon of 1849; and that through the confidence of another esteemed friend, whose name will be perfectly satisfactory to the Trustees, I believe, in the event of my being elected to the office, the requisite security will be interponed.

I am respectfully,

REVEREND SIRS AND GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient Servant,

JAMES ALEXANDER.

EDINBURGH, 31*st January* 1861.

TESTIMONIALS.

I.—*Extract from Report of Committee of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts, consisting of Professor Kelland, Professor Swan (now of St Andrews), and William Thomas Thomson, Esq., January* 1854.—Trans. Vol. IV. p. 2.

Your Committee having met, and carefully considered Mr Alexander's paper on Decimal Coinage, are of opinion that he is entitled to much credit for the ingenuity he has displayed in the conception of his plan, and in the means he proposes for facilitating the calculations connected with it. They do not, however, for various reasons, consider that it is a suitable scheme for adoption by the country.

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Your Committee cannot close this Report without expressing their feeling, that the warmest thanks of the Society are due to Mr Alexander for his very interesting paper; and although they have come to a different conclusion from him as to the decimal system of coinage which will best supply the wants of the country, yet they regard his views as highly deserving the attention of those who may meanwhile wish to adopt a decimal system of book-keeping, and they beg to suggest that his paper, along with this Report, be printed in the Society's Transactions.

WILLIAM SWAN, *Convener.*

II.—*Copy Letter from* CHARLES COWAN, Esq., M.P. *for the City of Edinburgh, to* ROBERT CLARK, Esq.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
9th March 1855.

DEAR SIR,—It will afford me great pleasure to be one of the friends of Mr James Alexander in the manner which you point out; and if I am in Scotland on the occasion, I should be very glad to take part in any procedure which may be adopted for transferring the gift into Mr A.'s hands.

I have known and esteemed Mr Alexander for many years, and have formed a high opinion of his qualities, both moral and intellectual. It is with great regret that I learned from himself of his intended exile from his native land; but I suppose that must be, and if so, he has my most cordial wishes for his prosperity and happiness, and that of his family.

I think it is a duty incumbent on his friends and fellow-citizens to promote these in so far as they can, and the mode alluded to by you seems highly calculated to aid in this result, and to procure from British subjects a kindly reception and welcome to him who is the object of our united good wishes.—Believe me, dear Sir, very truly yours,

CHAS. COWAN.

ROBERT CLARK, Esq.

III.—*From a Number of the Citizens of Edinburgh.*

EDINBURGH, *8th June* 1855.

DEAR SIR,—We, the undersigned Citizens of Edinburgh, have much pleasure in requesting your acceptance of the accompanying small Testimonial of our esteem on the occasion of your leaving Edinburgh to settle in Canada West; and we venture to express the hope that you may soon enjoy the same confidence and respect in the community of your adopted country as you have always enjoyed in your native city; and with our united best wishes for the welfare

and prosperity of yourself and family, we are, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

ROBERT CLARK, of R. Clark and Co., Merchants, Edinburgh.
JNO. CLAPPERTON, of John Clapperton and Co., Merchants, Edinr.
CHAS. MACKAY, of Mackay, Cunningham, and Co., Jewellers to the Queen.
GEO. HILL, of George Hill and Co., Merchants, Edinburgh.
THO. RANKEN, 68 Queen Street, Edinburgh, Solicitor Supreme Courts.
PETER HOWDEN, of Peter Howden and Co., Wine Merchants, Edinr.
W. J. DUNCAN, 18 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh.
WM. MENELAWS, Merchant, George Street, Edinburgh.
THOS. ANDERSON, 41 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh.
W. & A. K. JOHNSTON, Geographers to the Queen, Edinburgh.
ALEXANDER BRYSON, of R. Bryson and Sons, Watchmakers to the Queen.
ANDREW TAIT, ex-Magistrate of the City of Edinburgh.
PETER M'GREGOR, SONS, & CO., Merchants, Edinburgh.
FRAS. LYON, Treasurer Edinburgh and Leith Gas-Light Co.
JA. SMITH, Her Majesty's Master-Mason for Scotland, Edinburgh.
ROBT. BURN MITCHELL, of Peter Forbes and Co., Wine Merchants, Edinburgh.
A. B. WRIGHT, of St Catherine's.
THOS. H. WEIR, 19 Frederick Street, Edinburgh.
CHAS. COWAN, Valleyfield, M.P. for the City of Edinburgh.
CHAS. MACGIBBON, Builder, Edinburgh.
JOHN KAY, one of the Magistrates of the City of Edinburgh.
WILLIAM REID, Merchant, 5 Blacket Place, Edinburgh.
THOMAS ALEXANDER, 43 Lauriston Place.
JOHN ALEXANDER, 108 Lauriston Place.
GEO. GRAHAM BELL, Advocate, Edinburgh.
ROBERT PATERSON, Music-Seller, 27 George Street, Edinburgh.
PETER LAWSON & SON, Seedsmen, &c., Edinburgh.
JOHN SHEPPARD, 68 George Street, Edinburgh.
RAIMES, BLANSHARDS, & CO., Merchants, Edinburgh.
WILLIAM THOS. THOMSON, Standard Life Assurance Co.

JAMES ALEXANDER, Esq., Wine Merchant,
Edinburgh.

IV.—*From* Messrs MACFIE & SONS, *Merchants, Liverpool.*

LIVERPOOL, *6th June* 1855.

DEAR SIR,—You may freely refer to us, but as our distance must make that an exceptional case, we now state with much pleasure that we have known your father, the late Mr Richard Alexander, and your late firm, Messrs Richard

Alexander and Son, for about forty years we reckon, and look back with such feelings as we cannot duly express to frequent and agreeable intercourse; and more especially from personal and friendly knowledge of yourself do we with confidence record our conviction, that you will continue in the colonies that perseverance, industry, integrity, &c., which, combined with superior intellectual and other qualities, have secured you the esteem of so many of your fellow-citizens in Edinburgh. We need not say more, we daresay, but we cheerfully would contribute our little towards making your residence in Canada prosperous, not only for your own sake, but for the sake of your lady and family, having so long and so favourably known her respected father.—We are, with best wishes, dear Sir, yours always,

MACFIE AND SONS.

For our late firm of

WM. MACFIE AND CO.,
Edinburgh.

JAMES ALEXANDER, Esq.

V.—*From the* MINISTER *and* KIRK-SESSION *of* ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, *Toronto.*

TORONTO, *6th July* 1860.

It is hereby certified by the Session of St Andrew's Church, Toronto, that Mr James Alexander has, since his arrival in this city in the year 1855, been a member of the said congregation, and in full communion with the Church; that along with his family he has been regular in his attendance at church, and exemplary in his walk and conversation, during his residence of five years amongst us; and that he commanded the respect and confidence of the community generally, as well as of the members of the congregation with which during that period he has been connected, and whose Christian sympathies now accompany him on his return to his native land, where it is their prayer that all

suitable temporal and spiritual blessings may rest upon him and his.

JOHN BARCLAY, D.D.,
Minister of St Andrew's Church.
A. M'LEAN,* *Elder.*
JOHN CAMERON, *Elder.*

VI.—*From* GILBERT LAURIE FINLAY, Esq., *Manager of the Edinburgh Life Assurance Company, Edinburgh.*

17 NORTHUMBERLAND STREET, EDINBURGH,
30*th January* 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I am sorry to find that your health has obliged you to return to this country, and to give up the prospects of occupation in Canada, just after you had formed the basis of a good connection there.

As I understand you are now applying for the situation of Collector of the Ministers' Widows' Fund, I have only to say that I wish you may get it,—being satisfied that your business experience, your habits of industry, and your financial accuracy, would enable you to discharge the duties required of you, with equal credit to yourself and benefit to the funds entrusted to your management.—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

GILBERT L. FINLAY.

JAMES ALEXANDER, Esq.

VII.—*From* KENNETH MACKENZIE, Esq., *Accountant.*

29 NORTHUMBERLAND STREET, EDINBURGH,
30*th January* 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I have much pleasure in complying with your request, by stating that I consider that you are well qualified to fill the office of Collector to the Widows' Fund of the Church of Scotland. With the exception of the period during which you were in Canada, I think I may safely say that I have known you since we were boys at school together. I have always entertained a high opinion of your character and abilities, and although I fear you are somewhat late in announcing yourself as a Candidate for this office, I am sure

* The Hon. Arch. M'Lean, Judge of the Queen's Bench, Upper Canada.

that if you obtain it you will discharge its duties to the satisfaction of all concerned.—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

KENNETH MACKENZIE.

JRMES ALEXANDER, Esq.

VIII.—*From* P. TURNBULL, Esq., W.S.

34 INDIA STREET, EDINBURGH,
31*st January* 1861.

MY DEAR SIR,—Understanding that you are a candidate for the vacant office of Collector of the Ministers' Widows' Fund of the Church of Scotland, I beg to say, that I have known you intimately for the last thirty years, and have no doubt from your experience gained here, and still further in Canada, that, should you be appointed to the office, you would give the Trustees every satisfaction.—Wishing you success, I am, yours truly,

PAT. TURNBULL.

JAMES ALEXANDER, Esq.

IX.—*From* GEORGE T. BATHGATE, Esq., *Manager of the Scottish Trade Protection Society.*

EDINBURGH, 31*st January* 1861.

DEAR SIR,—Understanding that you are a Candidate for the vacant situation of Collector to the Widows' Fund of the Church and Universities of Scotland, I have much pleasure in stating that I consider you well fitted for such an office. During the time of your residence in Canada, as Manager of the Canada Trade Protection Society, I had a considerable deal of correspondence with you on business matters, and I always found you most prompt and attentive to whatever was committed to your care. It will afford me sincere gratification to learn that you are the successful Candidate for the appointment you now apply for.—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

GEORGE T. BATHGATE.

JAMES ALEXANDER, Esq.

X.—*From* WILLIAM BELL, Esq., *Stock and Share Broker, Agent for the Medical Invalid and General Life Assurance Society.*

2 NORTH ST DAVID STREET, EDINBURGH,
1*st February* 1861.

I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the ability, application, and great experience, financially and otherwise, in general business, combined with sound judgment and high moral principle, of Mr James Alexander, whom I have known for upwards of twenty years.

These qualities, with others which he will doubtless bring under the notice of the Trustees, eminently fit him, in my opinion, for the office to which he aspires; and should he be the successful Candidate, I am satisfied he will prove most efficient in the discharge of his duties.

WM. BELL.

XI.—*From* ALEXANDER RAMSAY, Esq., *Manager of the Edinburgh Water Company.*

123 PRINCES STREET, EDINBURGH,
1*st February* 1861.

I have known Mr James Alexander for the last eighteen or twenty years, and have had frequent opportunities of observing his superior intelligence, the extent and accuracy of his information on matters of mercantile business, and his diligence and anxiety in the pursuit of those business transactions in which he was engaged. If he should be successful in obtaining the appointment of Collector of the Ministers' Widows' Funds, I am satisfied he will discharge its duties with faithfulness and proper zeal, and in all respects so as to ensure the commendation of his constituents.

ALEX. RAMSAY.

XII.—*From* GEORGE TODD, Esq., *Secretary to the Standard Life Assurance Company.*

3 GEORGE STREET, EDINBURGH,
4th February 1861.

DEAR SIR,—I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to your business qualifications and integrity; and, after an acquaintance of many years, I have no hesitation in stating my conviction that any duty you may undertake will be zealously and faithfully performed.—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

GEORGE TODD.

JAMES ALEXANDER, Esq.